

My Lai, Dresden, and War-Crimes Trials

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BY A SUSPICIOUSLY effective timing, the story of the alleged massacre of "at least 109 Vietnamese civilians" by Americans exploded in the communications media a few weeks after President Nixon's address last November 3, seconded by Vice President Agnew's hard-hitting talks, began visibly to swing the "Silent Majority" and the Congress "Toward Peace with Justice in Vietnam."

At the juncture, when the American public was pulling the rug from under the assorted protesters who have been screaming for immediate withdrawal at any price, one Seymour M. Hersch, subsidized with a \$1,000 grant by the Phillip M. Stern Foundation, made a killing by exposing an alleged atrocity that happened twenty months ago. Hersch is the editor of the Dispatch News Service, one David Obst is the general manager, and one Michael Nussbaum is its attorney. It got around to incorporating on November 26, after its atrocity bonanza. On Hersch's "first story . . . on Nov. 13" it had "36 'one-shot' takers . . . 32 on its second . . . and many more on its third, an interview with Mr. Paul Meadlo." For the latter, Michael Silver, CBS News Director, paid the Obst-Hersch-Nussbaum *Dispatch* a "substantial" sum and lifted it into "financial" solvency (See "CBS Admits Paying for Meadlo Interview," *Wash. Daily News*, Sept. 27, 1969).

Leftists Join in Denunciation

The repercussions to this My Lai exposure were world-wide and unique.

Time writes of "the enormity of the massacre at My Lai" (Dec. 5). It reports that the British *New Statesman* wrote that "responsibility for the Pinkville massacre—and for how many others—lies squarely with the American nation as a whole." The Labor Party's left wing "is trying to pressure Prime Minister Wilson into dissociating Britain from U.S. policy in Viet Nam." This from a nation whose government on May 11, 1940, adopted the genocidal Lindemann plan of area bombing, "directed essentially against German working-class houses," to terrorize and kill a maximum number of civilians with the least waste of bombs (See Charles Snow, *Science and Government*, pp. 47-8). In the raid on Dresden alone, on February 13, 1945, this strategy bombed, burned, and sniped to death, not 109 civilians, but some 250,000 of them.

According to *U.S. News* (Dec. 8), the Swedish media reported in detail on My Lai: "A Stockholm daily compared U.S. acts with 'the methods of Hitler's S.S. troops in the countries they overran.'" *Der Stern* of West Germany asked Dr. Robert Kempner, a naturalized American refugee from the Third Reich and energetic prosecutor of German war criminals at Nuremberg and ever since, how My Lai would have been judged at Nuremberg. According to *Time* (Dec. 12, 1969) "he said, the guilty would have been tried—no matter which parties had been involved."

Only if one is totally blind to Soviet-

Russian war crimes can one say that Nuremberg would have tried the guilty of either side! Dr. Kempner, now, when what he believes to be "a war crime in the classical sense" to have been committed by Americans, urges the re-constitution at Nuremberg of an International Tribunal to try it he made no such proposal when, as *National Review* describes it:

"On April 9-10, 1948, Israeli commandos massacred all 254 inhabitants of the Arab Village of Deir Yassin—men-women and children." ("The Great Atrocity Hunt," Dec. 16, 1969).

Nor was it reported that he did so when it became known that the Vietcong during the *Tet* offensive in 1968 had brutally massacred what has so far around Hue "yielded more than 2,300 bodies, almost all of them civilians, many with their hands tied behind their backs"—shot, bludgeoned, or buried alive (*Time*, Dec. 5, '69, p. 29).

Hypocrisy Exposed Again

In view of this thirty-fold more numerous and more brutal and obviously pre-meditated Red massacre at Hue the alleged American one at My Lai, the shock professed by Communists about My Lai once again reveals the satanic hypocrisy and unprincipledness of bolshevism. *Izvestia* reported the My Lai incident as "Barbarism." Peking reprinted Hanoi's official charge that the U.S. was killing "suckling babies and disemboweling pregnant women." *Time* (Dec. 12, 1969) reports:

"In Moscow, a statement was signed by 24 Soviet intellectuals, including Composer Dmitri Shostakovich and Nobel Physicist Nikolai Semenov. The words were singularly shrill:

'The U.S. military followed in the tracks of the Nazi criminals.'

This from representatives of a re-

gime that committed the worst and the most large-scale atrocities in recent history. Of its many mass atrocities, it also committed the one that most incontrovertibly proves that the Nuremberg trial would not, as Robert Kempner now wants to suggest, have tried the guilty "no matter which parties had been involved." That atrocity was the cold-blooded murder at Katyn of 11,000 Polish prisoners of war. It is also a fully authenticated war crime in the classical sense. It was commanded by the same lend-lease pal of Roosevelt's, Marshal Stalin, who at Teheran proposed "justice before a firing squad . . . for all of Germany's war criminals . . . as fast as we capture them . . . at least 50,000 of them." Churchill got this design for mass lynching modified to the more legalized murders of the Nuremberg Trials.

Soviet Atrocities Overlooked

It goes without saying that this Tribunal did not concern itself with such other monster Soviet-Russian atrocities as the raping of possibly a million German, Austrian, and Hungarian women, the genocidal expulsion and total robbery of some fifteen million Oder-Neisse and other Eastern and Sudeten Germans, the murder in the process of some two and a half million of these unfortunates, and, what is a clearly recognized classical war crime, the slave-laboring and doing to death of some two million German prisoners of war after German surrender. It was Roosevelt's and Churchill's consent to this latter heinous atrocity, and the Nuremberg Tribunal's virtual acquiescence in it, that has given the frightful precedent to Hanoi's shameful abuse of our prisoners of war and our government's still more shameful desertion of them!

The cynical and terrible fact about atrocities is that the liberals of the world and the communications media they control, which includes the Vietnam war protesters, never have been

agitated about atrocities committed by Communists, whether in Spain, in Eastern Europe, in China, or in Vietnam. They only become agonized and "humanitarian" when atrocities can be alleged against the Christian world and only when they appear to have been committed against communists or pagans or Jews, not for example against Arabs or Germans.

Even twenty-five years after Unconditional Surrender, the German destruction of Lidice is dragged through the press as a monster atrocity, but the Israeli destruction of Deir Yassin is generously muted. Yet Lidice, a Czech village of 446, was accused of having knowingly sheltered the assassin of the German governor, Reinhard Heydrich. According to *World Book Encyclopedia*:

"German troops killed the men (over sixteen), sent the women to concentration camps, and put the children in German institutions. Then they destroyed the houses of Lidice by burning and shellfire."

In contrast, to quote the *National Review* (Dec. 16, 1969),

"On April 9-10, 1948, Israeli commandos massacred all 254 inhabitants of the Arab village of Deir Yassin—men, women and children."

Nor was this an act of reprisal for sheltering criminals, but one of savage terrorism to frighten the Arabs out of Palestine!

In the Spanish Civil War the Communist "Republicans" wantonly murdered 4,184 priests, 2,365 monks, and 283 nuns, plus many more innocent civilians, but our Abraham Lincoln Brigades are still proud of their part with the "Republicans" and the news media drool over "Republican" heroism and nute its atrocities!

In Vietnam since 1958 the Communists, according to *Time* (Dec. 5, 1969)

"are known to have killed more than 26,000 South Vietnamese, in-

jured hundreds of thousands, kidnapped at least 60,000 in their campaign of terror."

In 1967, 600 Vietcong invaded the Montagnard village of Dak Son, set it on fire with flamethrowers, shot the inhabitants as they fled:

"Altogether, 252 unarmed Montagnards, nearly all of them women and children, were murdered, 100 kidnapped, 500 listed as missing."

Yet, what provoked "The Great Atrocity Hunt" and made headlines everywhere and covered countless pages, is the Pinkville incident of mid-March 1968.

The contrast between the shock caused to be vibrated through the world when American G.I.'s are accused of having murdered 109 pro-Vietcong civilians and the relative complaisance with which the twenty-four hour fire-bomb massacre of certainly 135,000 persons, mostly women and children, over Dresden during World War II is instructive. It points up the curious fact that the publicity manipulators of the world accept philosophically atrocities committed by or for the benefit of communists but exhibit curiously tender consciences about actions hurting communists.

The full facts of the events at My Lai are not yet established. But it is certain that My Lai was in Vietcong territory, that it was a partisan hideout, that it had tunneling and storage areas, that its civilian population was not neutral but accomplices of the Vietcong. In such villages, not only the men but also the women, and even children tend to be dangerous as saboteurs. According to *Time* (Nov. 28, 1969):

"My Lai was a 'fortified' hamlet whose bricked up houses served as bunkers for marauding V.C. cadres ... The inhabitants ... had a long record for sheltering Vietcong."

If they did so, and if the Vietcong did not wear proper military identifications, or fought and then were given

shelter disguised as civilians, both they and the inhabitants violated the accepted rules of land warfare. The ones forfeited the right to be treated as prisoners of war if captured or discovered, and the inhabitants forfeited theirs as non-combatants. Where, as *Time* reports, there is guerilla warfare, "where the enemy wears no uniform, strikes from ambush, and where women do fire rifles and a ten-year-old selling pop by day may be a demolition expert by night," where kids "have been known to profiteer in land mines," harsh countermeasures are not only necessary but justified.

We read that 60 or 70 U.S. infantrymen entered the fortified hamlet of My Lai one morning "and destroyed its houses, its livestock and all the inhabitants they could find . . . When it was over, the Vietnamese dead totaled at least 100 men, women and children, and perhaps many more" (*Time*, Nov. 28, 1969).

If this execution of 109 probable Vietcong accomplices by Americans can be called such an enormous atrocity as to call "in question the U. S. mission in Vietnam," then what should our war protesters and communications media hold of Hanoi's mission in South Vietnam? "So far this year, by actual count," *Time* reports, "the Communists have killed 5,754 civilians, wounded 14,520 others and kidnaped 5,887."

What has really been the most enormous massacre in history continues to be discreetly played down or ignored altogether because it was committed against German civilians by Anglo-Americans for the prime benefit of Soviet Russia. The Englishman, R.H.S. Crossman wrote:

"The devastation of Dresden in February, 1945, was one of those crimes against humanity whose authors would have been arraigned at Nuremberg if that Court had not been perverted . . ." ("Apocalypse at Dresden," *Esquire*, Nov. 1963).

This atrocity was perpetrated because Churchill wanted "a thunderclap of Anglo-American aerial annihilation so frightful" as to impress Stalin on the eve of the Yalta Conference. The Red army was sixty miles away and the German civilians, terrified of the raping and murdering of these Soviet-Russian hordes, were streaming west. Some half a million had flooded into Dresden, an open city, an art and hospital center. It would appear that Stalin was especially incensed at these fleeing Silesians, possibly because their flight deprived the Red soldiers of opportunities for raping, possibly also because their flight advertized the savagery of the Red "liberators!"

Anyhow, Churchill, Lindeman, and Harris selected Shrove Tuesday for the obliteration of Dresden. That was the evening when children in Carnival garb might be expected to be "wandering about in fancy dress." During the briefing of one of the British squadrons, the intelligence officer suggested "that the very object of the raid was to kill as many as possible of the refugees known to be sheltering in the city, and to spread panic and chaos behind the Eastern front" (See D.J.C. Irving, *Destruction of Dresden*, 1966, p. 138). In other words, the air raid on Dresden was a calculated massacre of civilians, and at that juncture of the war, mostly women and children. This is confirmed by portions of briefings extant.

And indeed the blueprint for accomplishing the massacre of Dresden's inhabitants and refugees killed more civilians—mostly women and children—than had ever before been done to death in one time and place. This Shrove Tuesday at 10:09, 800 British Flying Fortresses for 24 minutes created a fire storm over the unsuspecting city and its half million refugees, ripping off roofs, sucking oxygen out of air-raid shelters, converting the inner city "into a sea of flames." The British

had dropped 650,000 Fire and Phosphor bombs and an indeterminate number of high explosive bombs. Houses burned and caved in, and people died in them or rushed out like living torches. Particularly horrid was the death and confusion in the hospitals.

Object is to Kill Civilians

This first attack was on mid-city, where the largest number of civilians were crowded together. The most important military object in Dresden, the railroad station, about a mile from the center was not harmed. This was incontrovertibly an attempt to kill off civilians. Even in this first wave, tens of thousands suffocated or burned to death. Of the survivors some 10,000 sought refuge in the large Dresden Garden. But several hours later, from 1:00 to 1:35 a.m. 1350 U.S. Fortress and Liberators flew in for their share in the massacre.

The Americans, David Irving to their credit reports, "would not permit their bombers to be sent for any purely terror-raids directed solely against the German populace" as the British Lindeman strategy prescribed. Therefore during second attack the rail station was destroyed. But hard to reconcile with the contention that the Rooseveltian bombers did not aim specifically at the populace is the fact that in this second attack the Dresden "Grosse Garten" was also bombed, where the unfortunate from the first British attack had fled. The Fortresses hurled a rain of Phosphor bombs on them. And they especially hit the hospitals.

Third Raid Kills Refugees

Surely one would think even the most degenerate sadists would now have had enough and give what few terrorized and crippled souls had so far survived rest. But no. The Churchill-Roosevelt massacre planners at 11:00 in the morning made a third assault with 1100 American bombers! This third wave

blasted what was left of the city so that for five days and nights it burned. And they especially covered the parks and exits from the city with bombs where the maximum human wretches, wounded or trying to flee, could be killed!

According to David Irving, the number of people massacred in the Dresden raid is at least 135,000. Czerny (*Nie Wieder Krieg*, Graz, 1961 p. 142), with more probability, puts the figure at 350,000. But only 55,000 corpses were intact enough to identify! The others were too mangled and burned or forever buried under the ruins!

The *Vatican Osservatore della Domenica* praises the decision of U. S. authorities to bring its own soldiers to trial for the alleged massacre of 109 civilians at My Lai. It calls it "a completely new event" that a combatant does "not accept war crimes, not even his own . . ." It adds:

"We should not in fact forget that the Allies put Nazi war criminals on trial in Nuremberg, and that Karl Adolf Eichmann (a Nazi war criminal) was tried and executed in Israel. But for a nation to put its own war criminals on trial constitutes a completely new event." (*Catholic Standard*, D.C., Dec. 11, 1969)

All well and good. But the elements that cry for these My Lai trials are the same ones that agitated for the trials against the Germans, and after twenty-five years still want more such trials (in Germany). But these same elements have never even in a whisper called for war crimes trials against the infinitely worse atrocities committed by Communists or by the Lindeman British and the Rooseveltians for the benefit of the Communists! Until the liberal leftists demand the same judgment for communist atrocities or those committed to help communists, the call for trials against the U. S. boys who destroyed My Lai is essentially nothing but pro-Communist propaganda.